

  


## OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

Frank J. Roberts  
Quality Assurance Coordinator  
Date of Appointment - 19 January 1993

### MISSION

The mission of the Office of Quality Assurance is to oversee the Institute's quality assurance, risk management, and graduate medical education programs. To accomplish this mission the Office of Quality Assurance monitors Institute compliance with the College of American Pathologists, the Department of Defense's Clinical Laboratory Improvement Program Accreditation requirements, the Department of the Army's and the AFIP's quality assurance and graduate medical education regulations, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education guidelines. The Office of Quality Assurance serves as AFIP liaison with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine's quality assurance staff and manages the AFIP/Military/VA Histopathology Quality Assessment Program (HQAP), the Department of Veterans Affairs Cytopathology Proficiency Testing Program, and the Systematic External Review of Surgical Cases Program (SERS). The Office of Quality Assurance also maintains a reference library containing publications from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, the College of American Pathologists, the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards.

### STAFF

#### *Administrative*

- (A) Marvin Cagle
- (A) Nicole Jenkins
- (D) HMC Ira N. Gordon
- Frank J. Roberts

### ACTIVITIES

The Office of Quality Assurance reviews and updates annually the Institute's Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control and Chemical Hygiene Plans. The Office of Quality Assurance also instructs Institute staff in the use of universal precautions and protection against bloodborne pathogens as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Office staff also conduct annual training to comply with OSHA'S Laboratory Safety Standard and CAP's fire extinguisher training requirement.

As part of the Institute's Risk Management Program, the Office of Quality Assurance conducts trend analysis on all job-related accident/illness injuries.

The Office of Quality Assurance manages an external peer-review program with the Brazilian Society of Pathology. On a bimonthly basis between 12 to 14 cases are sent to the AFIP for in-house review and one case is sent to Brazil for their review.

The Office of Quality Assurance's staff increased by two employees provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. These employees conduct the day-to-day operation of the Histopathology Quality Assessment Program, the Systematic Review of Surgical Cases, and the VA's Cytopathol-

ogy Proficiency Testing Program. They provide quarterly HQAP and SERS reports to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Quality Assurance Office. The reports include participation, scoring, and CME credit received (HQAP only). On a biweekly basis they mail four cytopathology proficiency testing cases to 40 participating VA medical centers (all participating VA medical centers receive one mailing per quarter). They also assemble and mail the quarterly HQAP cases.

The Office of Quality Assurance has an electronic bulletin board to inform Institute staff of ongoing quality assurance, risk management, and safety activities.

Mr. Roberts organized and coordinated the Institute's CAP inspection of Church Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Roberts serves as the recorder for the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), which was established to provide organization, supervision, and monitoring of all GME programs and their related functions. The GMEC is chaired by the director of Medical Education, with membership including the Director, Center for Advanced Pathology; program directors for Dermatopathology, Forensic Pathology, Neuropathology, Oral Pathology, and Veterinary Pathology; and an appointed resident.

Mr. Roberts developed a comprehensive medical surveillance program for the American Registry of Pathology's employees, and he also serves as their safety manager.

Mr. Roberts attended a Workplace Safety and Health Issues for the Healthcare Industry Seminar, which was held in Chicago, Ill.

## GOALS

1. Expand the VA's Cytology Proficiency Program to include military pathologists.
2. Make the Histopathology Quality Assessment Program available to civilian pathologists through the American Registry of Pathology for a fee.
3. Receive no deficiencies during the Institute's College of American Pathologists Accreditation inspection.